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SGO/AB/ms

27 November 1980

Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council of Europe
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London
SW1 7EP

Dear Mr Azzam

Amnesty International has already written to General Evren expressing concern about the detention of parliamentarians and others in Turkey who have not been involved in violent activities. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything possible to obtain the release of all such people, including Dr Erbakan and his colleagues.

Since the Revolution in Iran of February 1979, Amnesty International has been greatly concerned about the imprisonment and, in some cases, execution of members of religious minorities. We have mentioned this concern in a letter to the present Iranian Prime Minister. As you may know, there have been executions of Baha'is and Jews and, at the present time, there are Christians imprisoned in Iran. I would be most grateful if your organization could take up with the Iranian authorities the issue of their treatment of religious minorities.

If you would like to receive any further information about this, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Hammarberg
Secretary General

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience: men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It is financed by its membership and by subscriptions from all parts of the world. Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees)